

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ITF-05

SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03

SCA-01 PRS-01 IO-10 DODE-00 L-02 H-02 /077 W

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O R 021718Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0791

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06701

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, VS, VN

SUBJECT: UK MOVES TOWARD RECOGNITION PRG

SUMMARY. UK PLANS TO RECOGNIZE PRG IN NEAR FUTURE. UK  
EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONSULT WITH  
USG. CONSULTATIONS ALSO TAKING PLACE WITH OTHER EC  
MEMBERS. ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECOGNITION COULD OCCUR AS  
EARLY AS MAY 5. UK PREPARED TO REOPEN EMBASSY IN SAIGON  
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AT SHORT NOTICE. UK PLANNING SYMPATHETIC TREATMENT OF

GVN EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN LONDON. END SUMMARY.

1. FCO OFFICIALS REPORT THAT HMG WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE NEW GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM "SOONER RATHER THAN LATER". THEY SAY THAT OFFICIALS ARE RECEIVING STRONG MINISTERIAL PRESSURE TO RECOGNIZE SOONEST. UK EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO CONSULT WITH STATE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE U.S. VIEWS ON UK RECOGNITION. EC-9 PARTNERS ARE ALSO BEING CONSULTED. AT OFFICE DIRECTOR LEVEL, FCO IS PREDICTING THAT RECOGNITION MAY OCCUR MAY 5 OR MAY 6.

2. FCO REPORTS THAT A MEETING OF INDO-CHINA EXPERTS OF EC-9 HAS BEEN CALLED FOR MAY 9. WILLIAM SQUIRES, HEAD OF SOUTHEAST ASIA DEPARTMENT, FCO, WILL BE UK REPRESENTATIVE. FCO EXPECTS THIS DISCUSSION WILL BE USED FOR PURPOSES OF CONCERTING ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THOSE MEMBERS OF EC WHOSE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES REQUIRE ANNOUNCEMENT. UK IS INCLUDED IN THIS NUMBER. UK UNDERSTANDS FRENCH ARE TAKING POSITION THEY MAY MAKE NO FORMAL STATEMENT SINCE THEIR EMBASSY IN SAIGON CONTINUES TO FUNCTION.

3. BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH VIETNAM IS RETURNING TO LONDON THIS WEEK-END FOR CONSULTATIONS. THERE ARE 4 MEMBERS OF SAIGON STAFF REMAINING IN SINGAPORE, HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO MOVE BACK INTO SAIGON QUICKLY, IF RECOGNITION OCCURS, AND THERE IS INDICATION BRITISH MISSION WOULD BE WELCOME. AT TIME OF WITHDRAWAL, SECRETARY OF STATE CALLAGHAN SAID THAT HE WAS KEEN TO MET MISSION BACK IN SAIGON AS SOON AS SECURITY SITUATION PERMITS. THIS IS STILL POLICY OF HMG.

4. FCO SPECULATES THAT THE TENURE OF ANY UK DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO SAIGON WILL BE LIMITED. OUR SOURCE POINTED OUT THAT UK DOES NOT EVEN KNOW THE NEW TITLE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT NORTH VIETNAM HAS RECOGNIZED NEW GOVERNMENT. FCO EXPECTS THAT THERE WILL BE ELECTIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM IN VERY NEAR FUTURE WHICH WILL RESULT IN "99 PERCENT" DESIRE TO UNIFY VIETNAM UNDER HANOI LEADERSHIP. PRESENT EXPERIENCE WOULD

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INDICATE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN SAIGON IF THIS OCCURS.

5. ON VIETNAM EMBASSY IN LONDON, UK INTENDS TO FOLLOW SYMPATHETIC LINE. THEY WILL GIVE GVN EMBASSY 30 DAYS OF CONTINUED DIPLOMATIC STATUS FOLLOWING RECOGNITION TO CLOSE OUT AFFAIRS. THEY HAVE OFFERED ASYLUM TO VIETNAMESE EMBASSY EMPLOYEES HERE. GVN EMPLOYEES ARE APPARENTLY

TRYING TO COVER ALL BETS ON ASYLUM. THEY INDICATED INFORMALLY ON MAY 1 THAT 12 MEMBERS OF STAFF, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR, WOULD LIKE TO SEEK ASYLUM IN U.S. BUT THEY CANCELLED APPOINTMENT WITH EMBOFF TO DISCUSS THE MATTER ON MAY 2. MEANWHILE BRITISH UNDERSTAND THAT MAJORITY OF STAFF, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR, HOPE TO GO TO FRANCE. IN FINAL DEVELOPMENT, GVN FIRST SECRETARY HAS ASKED FOR NEW APPOINTMENT WITH US MAY 5 TO DISCUSS ASYLUM. REQUEST GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE FOR POSSIBLE FORMAL REQUEST FROM GVN AMBASSADOR AND STAFF FOR ASYLUM IN U.S. IN TIME FOR THAT MEETING. RICHARDSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RECOGNITION, POLITICAL ASYLUM, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT, DIPLOMATIC MISSION CLOSING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LONDON06701  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750154-1116  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750586/aaaadbhs.tel  
**Line Count:** 126  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <15 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UK MOVES TOWARD RECOGNITION PRG SUMMARY. UK PLANS TO RECOGNIZE PRG IN NEAR FUTURE. UK  
**TAGS:** PFOR, UK, VS, VN, PRG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006